



Drug Free DeKalb County

National City Bank Building, Suite A
101 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 406
Auburn, IN 46706
260-/927-1706 www.drugfreedekalbcounty.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drug Free DeKalb County has nominated four DeKalb County programs and one volunteer to receive honors. The Northeast region for Drug Free Indiana is comprised of 14 counties. Each county nominates outstanding programs in prevention, treatment, judicial and a volunteer of the year. The regional winners will be announced at the annual meeting on November 9, 2006 at the Eagles Nest County Club in Columbia City.

DeKalb County's nomination for prevention went to WFGA Froggy 106.7 for their media campaign. WFGA Foggy 106.7 radio station developed a year long community awareness campaign for addressing alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues. This 12 month campaign was designed to target parents, teens and preteens with increasing the awareness and the perceptions of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The radio station developed commercials for each of the focus areas; prevention, treatment, and judicial. In addition these commercials have provided growth for the Drug Free DeKalb County coalition. Media campaigns have proven the effectiveness of redundancy and have influenced and help change social norms regarding tobacco and alcohol usage.

Drug Free DeKalb County nominated Right Relations for the treatment category. Right Relations provides a family enrichment series that teaches new skills, refines core beliefs and clarifies standards for creating healthy relationships. The focus of the program is to improve the relationships and increase the responsibility of the parents. The negative effects of drugs and alcohol on co-parenting, romantic and professional relationships are discussed throughout the 22 weeks of the program. For the year 2006 Right Relations is projected to serve 144 parents from DeKalb County.

In the judicial area Drug Free DeKalb County nominated I.M.A.G.E. (Indiana Multi Agency Group Enforcement) IMAGE is a Drug Task Force that is pro-active, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement program that serves a four county area in Northeast Indiana (DeKalb Noble Steuben and LaGrange). IMAGE was established in 1993 for the sole purpose of investigation and enforcement of drug related crimes. Over the last 13 years IMAGE has established a reputation within the law enforcement community, as well as within the public sector, as being a successful organization with the arrests, prosecution and incarceration of drug offenders.

A new category called the Horizon Award was started this year by the Northeast Region for a Drug Free Indiana. This award is for new and upcoming programs that are impacting the community and are easily duplicated. Drug Free DeKalb County

nominated the Waterloo Game Room. The Waterloo Game room is providing youth with entertainment, an understanding of community service, and the rewards of doing for others. Three volunteers, provide approximately 40 youth a week, mainly Hispanic and under the age of 15, with alternatives and a positive outlook. The Waterloo Game Room offers books, movies, video games and music to youth. In turn the youth have a place to go, someone to talk to, and a sense of worth because of the efforts of these volunteers. Suzette Stitt and her volunteers are providing the youth in Waterloo with more than just videos and games, they are providing youth of a distressed community the opportunity to overcome obstacles and alternatives.

Renee Brouse of the YMCA was nominated as Volunteer of the Year for DeKalb County. Renee Brouse sits on the Drug Free DeKalb County Board of Directors and has been involved with the coalition since August 2004. She is employed with the DeKalb County YMCA where she is Operations Director and instructor with the Afternoon Rocks Program. Renee's involvement with Drug Free DeKalb County is one of total commitment with her involvement of volunteering her time and talents. Renee is always eager to provide the organization with the support of the YMCA with activities and space free of charge for town hall meetings, and other organizational needs. When Renee volunteers you can always count on her being there and bringing others from her family and program to help make the activity a success.

Drug Free DeKalb County is extremely honored to be associated with these individuals and groups in providing much needed resources for DeKalb County.